

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 04945 271755Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /093 W  
-----271918Z 002038 /50 45

R 271358Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2876  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
HQ USSOUTHCOM, SCJ2

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 4945

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, UY  
SUBJ: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES FIRST STATEMENT

REF: MONTEVIDEO 4939

1. FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE ROVIRA MADE THE FOLLOWING  
POINTS TO THE PRESS ON DECEMBER 23, SHORTLY AFTER HIS

APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED:

A) URUGUAY'S IMAGE. "BY MEANS OF PUBLICITY, BOOKS, FILMS,  
WORD OF MOUTH (WE) WILL HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY  
TO OFFSET THE CALUMNIES OF OUR ENEMY AND RETURN TO THE  
NATION THE FOREIGN IMAGE WHICH HAS BEEN DAMAGED BY MALIGNANCY."

B) KOCH AMENDMENT. "IF THE UNITED STATES SENATE HAD HAD  
ACCURATE, DIRECT AND CONCRETE INFORMATION ABOUT URUGUAY  
THE KOCH AMENDMENT COULD NOT HAVE EXISTED. THUS, WHAT  
REP. MCDONALD HAS SAID PARTICULARLY PLEASES ME... I BELIEVE  
THE PRESS SHOULD PLAY A PREDOMINANT ROLE IN THIS BUSINESS  
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OF ENLIGHTENMENT AGAINST EASILY UNMASKED ORGANIZATIONS  
SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. I HAVE WATCHED UNEASILY  
THE DISTORTED NOTICES OF THE PRESS. MORE THAN MATERIAL  
THINGS, THE KOCH AMENDMENT IMPLIES MORAL DAMAGE BECAUSE  
IT IS A SIGN OF MISTRUST TOWARDS A FRIEND, A DEMONSTRATION  
OF HOSTILITY".

C) U.S. LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. "IT IS AN ENIGMA BECAUSE CARTER HAS NO ANTECEDENTS, BUT GIVEN THE POSITION OF LEADERSHIP WHICH HIS NATION HOLDS, I BELIEVE THAT ONCE IN THE JOB HE WILL SEE THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO CHANGE FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT."

D) HIS TASK. (ONE) "MUST BE AT THE CALL OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS IN A STAGE OF A POLITICAL PROCESS WHOSE AIMS HAVE BEEN DEFINED AND WHICH WISHES TO RETURN TO THE NATION TO SECURITY, TRANQUILITY AND WELL-BEING. TO DEFEND THE DEAR AND TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE REPUBLIC. TO PRESS ON IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT THE INCIDENTAL MAJORITIES CANNOT USE THEM AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DESTROY THEIR PRESTIGE."

E) FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF. ROVIRA SAID HE WOULD, "DEMAND DEDICATION, CONSECRATION, SAGACITY AND INTELLIGENCE OF THE PEOPLE.. WHO SHOULD NOT BE VERSAILLES TYPE DIPLOMATS BUT WHO SHOULD ACT AS COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL AGENTS SERVING THE NATION WHICH, IF IT DOES NOT EXPORT, WILL PERISH..."

F) FOREIGN POLICY. ROVIRA PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, "BEGUN BRILLIANTLY BY MY ILLUSTRIOUS PREDECESSOR... THERE IS A COHERENT POLICY WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED EVEN THOUGH MEN CHANGE."

G) STYLE. ALTHOUGH STRESSING THAT THERE IS MUCH TO DO IN THE MINISTRY ITSELF, ROVIRA SAID HE PREFERRED PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HEMISPHERIC COLLEAGUES BECAUSE, "A FRIENDLY MOMENT CAN DO MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF COLD DIPLOMACY."

2. ROVIRA WAS SWORN IN ON DECEMBER 28<sup>1</sup> AT 0900 LOCAL TIME. BLANCO AND OUT-GOING SUBSECRETARY MICHELIN WERE NOT PRESENT AT CEREMONY, WITH BLANCO HAVING SAID GOODBYE TO FONMIN STAFF JUST BEFORE. SIRACUSA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES FIRST STATEMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, UY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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